

Rampton Scrapbook 1897 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

Most of these stories originally appeared in the Cambridge Daily/Evening/News or the
Cambridgeshire Weekly News, its sister title.

They are supplemented by some articles published in the
Cambridge Independent Press or Cambridge Chronicle

Most were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-2014

The complete 'Cambridgeshire Scrapbook' of which this is a small section is published online
at bit.ly/CambsCollection

I have digital and other copies of most of the stories summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them in the meantime then please get
in touch.

The original volumes are housed in the Cambridgeshire Collection at Cambridge Central
Library where there are many other indexes dating back to 1770.

They also have detailed newspaper cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled
since the 1960s.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2017

1897 03 24

A Rampton man was summoned for being in possession of a dwelling house which was dangerous and unfit for habitation. There were three rooms on the ground floor, the rooms at either end were boarded up and the centre portion occupied. The only thing that prevented that from falling in was the floor above. The roof was giving way and part of it rested on an old four-post bedstead. The occupant had to hold up an umbrella to keep the wet out of the house

1902 08 07

At Rampton the Free Church Mission Hall, which has recently been completed, was opened for public worship. It is an unpretentious brick built building but was an ornament to the village and could strengthen the hands of local Nonconformists. Dr Harris said popular education was being Romanised and if the Education Bill passed in its present form in 20 years more of this regime would effectively Romanise the people of England

1910 01 14

Captain Morrison-Bell addressed election meetings at Rampton and Longstanton. At Rampton the gathering was a somewhat noisy one, with a good many interruptions, but at Longstanton a number of youths indulged in actual rowdyism; they refused to give the speakers a fair chance to air their views and blows were struck amongst some of the more noisy members of the audience. At both meetings a heavy missile struck one of the cars as the candidate and his helpers drove away 10 01 14

1914 07 17

Rampton manor house not sold with estate

1914 08 21

Last Sunday Mr Arthur Savidge of Cottenham ran his bus to Cambridge to give the people an opportunity of seeing the large number of troops in the town. There was a full load of passengers and he has handed the proceeds to Mrs Hayden Cox for the Cottenham Red Cross Society's fund. The village of Rampton is doing its best and will equip beds while Miss Ivatt of the Manor House will provide rooms, fully equipped, if necessary

1914 10 09

Ivatts leave Rampton Manor House *

1917 03 07

The Mail Cart - On Wednesday evening last the mail cart, which has been running for about 20 years between Cambridge and Willingham, via Milton. Landbeach, Cottenham and Hampton, could be seen making its last journey. Arrangements have now been made for the Cottenham and Rampton mail in future to come from Cambridge to Oakington station by train. Mr. Albert Young, of Rampton, has been appointed to fetch the mail from Oakington in the morning and to carry it to Oakington in the evening, Owing to these alterations, the Cottenham letters will be delivered an hour later than usual. The mail in the evening will so out at 8.45 instead of 8 o'clock, necessitating the posting of letters an hour and a quarter earlier than usual. The mid-day delivery will remain as before. There will in future be no delivery or dispatch on Sundays.

1920 02 04

Rampton demobilised soldiers entertained – about half had been lost, recalls military history – Belsar's Hill etc – 20 02 04a

1924 11 30

Thank to the efforts of the Rector, the Rev. C.H. Evelyn-White, restoration and repair work has been going on at Rampton church. The rector has held the living for thirty years and has devoted himself to beautifying the church during the whole of that time. The Lord Bishop of Ely dedicated the new east window erected in memory of the men of the village who fell in the war. Other work includes the re-roofing of the south aisle and the re-building of the east wall, during which many interesting relics were found.

1925 12 28

A meeting of ratepayers protested against the compulsory attendance of the children of Rampton at the elementary school at Cottenham. They object to their children, whom they cannot afford to appropriately clothe and feed, having to tramp long distances to school through slush and mud and in all kinds of weather. The children need extra clothing and boots, and the food they have to take with them costs more than if they were fed at home

1926 08 23

A father's objection to his child having to attend another village school to receive elementary education was related to the court. Rampton school was now a junior institution and children over 11 years of age had to go to Cottenham. An offer of a bicycle had been made in order that the child should attend school, but this was refused, as had an offer of 15s. (75p) per year in lieu of a bicycle. The judge warned that the child might be sent to an industrial school and would have to remain there until he was 16.

1928 09 23

The Rev Charles Harold Evelyn-White, who has been rector of Rampton for the past 31 years, has announced his retirement. His work in connection with the restoration of the parish church, carried out under circumstances of exceptional difficulty is outstanding. He spoke of the wrench it would be for him and his wife to tear themselves away from both place and people

1929 09 14

Absence of wasps – CDN 14.9.1929

1931 09 18

The quiet village of Rampton received a surprise visit of the Church Association 'Dolby Van' with their missionary, Mr F. Wood. He parked his van on the village green and held a Protestant meeting, addressing a large gathering on 'The movement towards Rome'. In his 40-minute address he exposed many of the practices which are indulged in by some members of the clergy and distributed a large amount of literature before leaving.

1933 12 12

A.T. Paskett, county horticultural adviser, knew what he was talking about and had a pleasant way of imparting information. He was secretary of the West Cambs. Growers Association and organised the Great Autumn Show, arranged demonstrations of sprayers for fruit trees and mechanical cultivators as well as trials of different kinds of fruit. He was responsible for the County demonstration plot at Rampton, started four years, ago where experiments are tried on different fruit tree stocks. 33 12 12

1934 07 14

Rampton has one of two reed-thatched churches in the Diocese. The 13th-century nave roof is supposed to have been brought from Barnwell Prior at the Dissolution. It is now being rethatched, the bells rehung and a heating system installed. The cost bears heavily on a village of only 280 inhabitants and any contributions should be sent to the Rector. 34 07 14

1934 09 13

Rampton barn fire – 34 09 13

1938 03 11

Charles Harold Evelyn-White, rector of Rampton 1894-1928, funeral – 38 03 11c

1939 11 02

Rampton church bell dedicated memory Rev C.H. Evelyn-White – 39 11 02a

1951 03 29

After a lull of about a month another outbreak of fowl pest has occurred at Meldreth, where some 200 birds have had to be destroyed. The outbreak, the first reported since that at Rampton, brings the total number to 38. Some 22,000 birds have been destroyed. Last week the total of birds slaughtered in the Isle of Ely was more than doubled by an outbreak in a big flock at Manea.

1952 08 05

Jubilee celebrations were held at Rampton Free Church Mission Hall. Mr William Coles said he could clearly remember the laying of the foundation stone and the opening ceremony. Rampton held an important place in village life around it. It was squeezed between two villages, Willingham and Cottenham, but like a jam tart, the best is always in the centre.

1953 09 12

The drainage rate to be levied on the Allottees of the Cottenham Inclosure Award has been reduced by ninepence now that the Old West Internal Drainage District Scheme has been approved. It provides for the abolition of the Cottenham, Rampton and Willingham Drainage District but there is no provision for the disposal of surplus moneys and is unlikely to commence before 1st April 1954.

1955 07 19

Motor cycle side-car scrambling came to the area for the first time on Sunday – and what an exciting debut it made! The Matchless Club event at Elsworth proved so exciting and such a spectacular attraction that a special handicap race was held. Brian Stonebridge, the 25-year-old scramble star from Rampton won both. Nothing could touch his B.S.A. 500 combination; he roared into every turn and jumped the bumps at full throttle. 55 07 19

1955 11 15

A Vampire jet from RAF Oakington skimmed over Rampton before crash-landing in a field. The pilot managed to miss council houses and touched down, bouncing over and ditch and hedge before coming to rest in an orchard. Several villagers did not hear any explosion and only realised a plane had crashed when they saw the flames.

1958 01 16

William Coles of Cottenham, the oldest active lay preacher in Cambridge Methodist Circuit, has celebrated his 90th birthday. He began preaching 68 years ago in the Cottenham Circuit and has continued every since. During the past year he has preached in Histon and Willingham chapels as well as the Salvation Army hall in Cottenham. He has also presided at Rampton Mission Hall

1958 07 04

Farmers and smallholders are facing serious financial losses caused by flooding at Cottenham fen. About 400 acres are under water and crops worth thousands of pounds have been ruined after a large public field drain on the boundary with Rampton burst its banks following days of heavy rainfall. Farmers say the drain had not been draglined for ten years but that the River Board had adopted a 'Blow you Jack' attitude and refused even to loan their pumps.

1959 09 11

Rampton flooding – no action by Ouse River Board – 59 09 11f

1961 02 07

Church Army officers, described as the church's 'shock troops', have been running a mission at Rampton. They have organised community singing, meetings for children, pram services for mothers, parties for teenagers and almost nightly services. Some public spirited parishioners opened their homes to friends and neighbours to provide the two captains and the Rector with the opportunity of meeting people socially. The missionaries say any increase in church attendance – the average congregation is 25 – or more generous contributions to church funds is secondary to experiencing practical Christianity 61 02 07b

1961 12 06

Coypu have been killed at Rampton, Lode and Bottisham during November along with 10 other in the Isle of Ely. The coypu grows to two feet long with strong orange-coloured incisor teeth and webbed feet. It lives in marshy areas and makes flat 'nests' of dry reeds. It is essential to seek out and kill them before they become established in the fens, causing heavy damage to crops and dykes 61 12 06a

1962 03 21

Rampton County School will probably close when the headmistress, Mrs J. Haird, retires at the end of the summer term. The pupils would be transferred to Cottenham where a Village College will open shortly taking children over 11 years of age from surrounding villages. This will leave the Cottenham County School available for primary education. There would be no real opposition but if there was a public inquiry could be held, councillors were told. 62 03 21

1962 04 19

Rampton school closure dispute – 62 04 19a

1962 07 30

The old general stores and filling station at Rampton are being dwarfed by the new stores rising behind them. The premises are being built for A.E. Young, who has run the business for 33 years. One unusual feature is a 28-feet unsupported span of ribbed concrete which forms the roof. This part of the structure was produced in Cambridge by Sindall Concrete 62 07 30

1963 03 28

Rampton to get new sewage pumping station – 63 03 28

1963 10 31

The new Cottenham sewerage scheme will serve more than 1,000 people in Cottenham and Rampton, with four pumping stations as well as a disposal works. During construction they had discovered a network of old village drains, most of which were unrecorded. They were not laid in straight lines and were provided with few manholes. It means that half the villages in Chesterton RDC's area are now connected to main sewers with other schemes planned for the New Year. 63 10 31

1964 04 07

Rampton electricity supplies to be improved – 64 04 07

1964 04 09

Cow Lane Rampton an awful mess – clerk P. Robinson – 64 04 09

1975 08 30

Rampton consists of only 350 people but it is singularly active. The Rector, J.D. Thomas, said "Rampton people are warm in their welcome (he is in his first year there), very friendly and lively, with an enjoyable sense of humour. We have a churchwarden in his eighties, Walter Cundell, who opens the church every morning about 7.30 and closes it every night."

1975 10 11

The wretched quality of this year's potato harvest was graphically demonstrated at Rampton parish church. The harvest festival vegetable display did not include a single spud – just one pack of Instant Mash. I hope the Almighty takes the hint – Christopher South

1975 12 21

Rampton football club must have one of the most unusual changing rooms in the country ... a double-decker bus. It originally plied a Yorkshire route but was bought by Mr Ted Young, who operates a transport service from Rampton, and who has loaned the vehicle to the footballers while a proper pavilion is being built. 'The home team change upstairs, and the visitors downstairs' explained the club secretary, Mrs Margaret Smith.

1976 12 06

With its charming thatched church and peaceful atmosphere, Rampton gives the impression that nothing ever happens there. Not so, says the Rev Degwell Thomas. Only this week a car left the road and destroyed the bus shelter and before that another car demolished 12 yards of the rectory wall. Last Friday a fire almost destroyed part of the rectory and the dry summer has produced a three-inch crack in the east end of the chancel wall of the church. One of the new residents told the Rector "This is the most exciting place I have ever lived in"

1977 01 29

Sunday services at Rampton are being enlivened by the return of a colony of squirrels to the church roof, but the accompaniment they are giving to the hymns is upsetting the congregation. A previous rampage was resolved when they were flushed out after repairs to the famous thatched roof in 1975 & the squirrels' squeaking activities seemed a thing of the past. Now they have found a haven between the outer and inner roofs of the tiled chancel. So in warm and comfortable surroundings the squirrel squatters again scramble about as the congregation lifts its voices in song.

1978 08 28

Work is underway on the redecoration of the interior of Rampton church for the first time in living memory. It brings to an end the last stage of a programme of repair. Much of the trouble began in the dry summer of 1976 when shrinking clay left a three-inch crack in the chancel wall. It was in danger of collapse and had to be underpinned. Metal ties had to be inserted and the aisle roof reslated. The work is costing £7,000 and fund-raising for the 800-year-old church, one of the few thatched churches left in Britain, continues

1979 10 07

Rampton parish council took on the giant local authorities at the Structure Plan examination and demanded a better deal. The County Council aims to restrict development and Rampton is scheduled as an area where only in-filling should be allowed. But the parish councillors wanted the village to be allowed to develop rather more. Older people were getting no younger and the young people who had no houses to live in had to go to other villages. Reasonable development should be encouraged or 'our village would go', they told inspectors

1982 10 28

Race against floods, Rampton – Cottenham lode – 82 10 28a

